

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head comprising:

a magnetic tunnel effect type magnetic head having a magnetic tunnel junction element sandwiched with upper and lower conductive gap layers between [a pair of] upper and lower magnetic shielding layers, wherein the conductive gap layer is formed from at least one nonmagnetic metal layer containing a metal element selected from Ta, Ti, Cr, W, Mo, V, Nb and Zr; and

an inductive type thin-film head having a lower core layer formed of the same material as the upper magnetic shielding layer and located on the upper conductive gap layer.

2. (Original) The magnetic tunnel effect type magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the conductive gap layer is formed from at least two nonmagnetic metal layers including a metal layer containing a metal element selected from Ta, Ti, Cr, W, Mo, V, Nb and Zr and a metal layer containing a metal element selected from Al, Pt, Cu and Au.

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Currently Amended) A recorder/player which records and/or plays back a signal to and/or from a magnetic recording medium [by the use of] comprising:

a magnetic tunnel effect type magnetic head having a magnetic tunnel junction element sandwiched with conductive gap layers between a pair of magnetic shielding layers, wherein the conductive gap layer is formed from at least one nonmagnetic metal layer containing a metal element selected from Ta, Ti, Cr, W, Mo, V, Nb and Zr; and

an inductive type thin-film head having a lower core layer formed of the same material as one of the shielding layers.

5. (Original) The recorder/player according to claim 4, wherein the conductive gap layer is formed from at least two nonmagnetic metal layers including a metal layer containing a metal element selected from Ta, Ti, Cr, W, Mo, V, Nb and Zr and a metal layer containing a metal element selected from Al, Pt, Cu and Au.

6. (Withdrawn)